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PAGE 01 STATE 297364 2005 STATE 297364
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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN - RCBROWN:LEE
APPROVED BY ARA - JRCHEEK
ARA/PPC - LEINAUDI
ARA/RPP - GJONES
S/P - SPURCELL
HA - DSHAFFER
ARA/CEN - JDBLACKEN
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ARA:WGBOWDLER

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC; ROME ALSO FOR VATICAN

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, ES
SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON EL SALVADOR: PART III -- U.S. POLICY AND SUPPORT

1. US POLICY TOWARD EL SALVADOR IS BASED ON THE CONVICTION THAT FAR-REACHING REFORMS TO INVOLVE THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN THE POLITICS AND ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY ARE BOTH INEVITABLE AND DESIRABLE.

2. THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR AS THE BEST ALTERNATIVE TO AN ALL OUT CIVIL WAR. SINCE MARCH 1980, THE JRG HAS MADE PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING VITALLY NEEDED SOCIO-ECONOMIC REFORMS AND DEVELOPED AN ELECTORAL FRAMEWORK FOR POLITICAL DEMOCRACY.

3. WITH REGARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS, THE U.S. IS CONCERNED THAT VIOLENCE IS CONTINUING AT A HIGH LEVEL IN EL SALVADOR AND THAT IN ADDITION TO THE VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM FROM THE EXTREME LEFT AND RIGHT, ELEMENTS OF THE SECURITY FORCES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR A PORTION OF THE INDISCRIMINATE VIOLENCE. THE U.S. HAS MADE CLEAR TO THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT THAT IT MUST BRING THE VIOLENCE UNDER CONTROL FROM WHATEVER SOURCE.

4. UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO CARRY OUT ITS REFORM PROGRAMS AND IMPROVE THE COUNTRY'S ADHERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS.

5. WE MADE AVAILABLE APPROXIMATELY $56 MILLION IN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE DURING THIS PAST YEAR. THIS AID IS DIRECTED TOWARD THE MOST NEEDY, WILL CREATE PUBLIC WORKS, EMPLOYMENT, FEED THE HUNGRY, IMPROVE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HOUSING AS WELL AS SUPPORT AGRARIAN AND OTHER REFORMS. OUR AID IS INTENDED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ERADICATION OF CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE BRED UNREST AND EXTREMIST VIOLENCE. IN ADDITION WE HAVE ENCOURAGED THE VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO CONTINUE BEING RESPONSIVE TO REQUESTS BY THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT. THE IMF HAS RESPONDED WITH OVER $40 MILLION IN STAND BY CREDITS AND DRAWINGS FROM THE TRUST FUND; THE IDB HAS EXTENDED $63 MILLION IN PROJECT LOANS; AND THE WORLD BANK IS EXPLORING WAYS TO HASTEN DISBURSEMENTS ON $127 MILLION OF PREVIOUS PROGRAMS LOANS AND TO DESIGN A NEW PROJECT TO MEET EXISTING ECONOMIC STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS.

6. U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TOTALLED $5.9 MILLION OVER THE PAST YEAR, AND CONSISTS PRINCIPALLY OF CREDITS FOR PURCHASE OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT, AMBULANCES, RIOT CONTROL GEAR, AND A SPECIAL PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION TO INCREASE THE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN. THE ASSISTANCE IS INTENDED TO INCREASE THE CONTROL OF THE ARMED FORCES OVER UNITS IN THE FIELD AND TO INCREASE PROFESSIONALISM SO THAT ORDER CAN BE MAINTAINED WITH A MINIMUM OF FORCE AND DUE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. WE HAVE NOT PROVIDED ARMS OR AMMUNITION OF ANY KIND UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. NO U.S. COMBAT TROOPS OR MILITARY ADVISORS ARE IN EL SALVADOR. (THE 36 U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN EL SALVADOR ARE ALL DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH OUR EMBASSY AND ARE COMPOSED OF U.S. MARINE GUARDS FOR PERSONNEL AND EMBASSY SECURITY; MILGRP AND DEFENSE ATTACHE PERSONNEL AND ONE OFFICER ON LOAN TO THE OAS OBSERVER MISSION.)

7. WE ARE CONSTANTLY REVIEWING THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT'S PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING ITS GOALS. AS THE GOVERNMENT BRINGS UNDER CONTROL THOSE ELEMENTS WHICH ARE COMMITTING ABUSES AND IMPLEMENTS ITS REFORMS MORE FULLY, THE U.S. WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO INCREASE ITS ASSISTANCE MUSKIE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC
REVIEWED BY HR DATE 3 JUL 1982
RDS-2 or DECLET. DATE
TO NARA. REASON(S)
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